

CLAIMS:

1. A method of producing an immunogen, which method comprises polymerising a hirudin and/or a hirudin-like protein.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the hirudin and/or the hirudin-like
5 protein are/is polymerized with glutaraldehyde.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the hirudin is HV1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), HV2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), HV3 (SEQ ID NO: 3), P1 (SEQ ID NO: 4) or P2 (SEQ ID NO: 5).
4. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the hirudin-like protein is a
10 derivative of HV1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), HV2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), HV3 (SEQ ID NO: 3), P1 (SEQ ID NO: 4) or P2 (SEQ ID NO: 5) by way of amino acid substitution, deletion, insertion, extension, functionalisation or chemical modification, said derivative having anti-thrombin activity.
5. An immunogen comprising a polymerised hirudin and/or hirudin-like
15 protein.
6. An immunogen according to claim 5 wherein the hirudin is HV1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), HV2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), HV3 (SEQ ID NO: 3), P1 (SEQ ID NO: 4) or P2 (SEQ ID NO: 5).
7. An immunogen according to claim 5 wherein the hirudin-like protein is a
20 derivative of HV1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), HV2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), HV3 (SEQ ID NO: 3), P1 (SEQ ID NO: 4) or P2 (SEQ ID NO: 5) by way of amino acid substitution, deletion, insertion, extension, functionalisation or chemical modification, said derivative having anti-thrombin activity.
8. An immunogen according to claim 5, 6 or 7 obtainable by polymerising
25 the hirudin and/or the hirudin-like protein with glutaraldehyde.
9. A method of producing an antibody capable of binding to a hirudin or a hirudin-like protein, said method comprising raising antibody against an immunogen as claimed in claims 5 to 8.
10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the said antibody is a polyclonal
30 antibody.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

12. A method for the quantitative determination, purification or identification of a hirudin or hirudin-like protein, said method comprising raising antibody against an immunogen as claimed in claims 5 to 8, and using the antibody thereby obtained in said quantitative determination, purification or identification.